

Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council
Minutes
April 6, 2012

Bill Creal, Chief, Water Resources Division (WRD), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), called the meeting together and welcomed everyone.

Introductions of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Advisory Council (Council) members and others present were made.

Dan Wyant, Director, DEQ, gave the opening remarks. He thanked everyone for serving on the Council and looks forward to working with them. He emphasized three things he's like to see come out of the Council: improve and strengthen communication, support the State Management Plan, and position Michigan to collaborate with other Great Lakes states and provinces share.

Patty Birkholz provided opening remarks regarding the significance of AIS and the important role of the AIS Advisory Council.

Bill Creal indicated that an AIS Core Team was formed and has been meeting to lay out the groundwork for the Council's work.

Bill Creal gave an overview of the tasks, intent, and timeline for the Council as provided in Part 414, Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

Bob Reichel, Department of Attorney General, gave some background on the federal Clean Water Act, the 401 Certification, and the Vessel General Permit.

Concerns were raised by Council members about the very aggressive deadlines the Council is required to meet.

Sarah LeSage, AIS Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the State Management Plan.

Mike Bryan, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, gave a presentation on organisms in trade.

Gary Whelan, Fisheries Division, Department of Natural Resources, gave a presentation on organisms in trade from a fisheries perspective.

Sarah LeSage gave a presentation on ballast water.

The Council elected Bill Creal as the chairperson for the Council.

Next meeting: April 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Constitution Hall.

A doodle survey will be sent out to determine future meeting dates.

Presentations and meeting materials are available at
www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives

